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# HISTORY of the DEHAVEN FAMILY

BY  
HOWARD DEHAVEN ROSS, PH. B.  
(UNIV. OF PENNA.)

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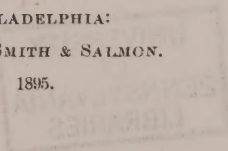
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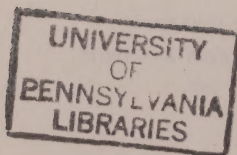
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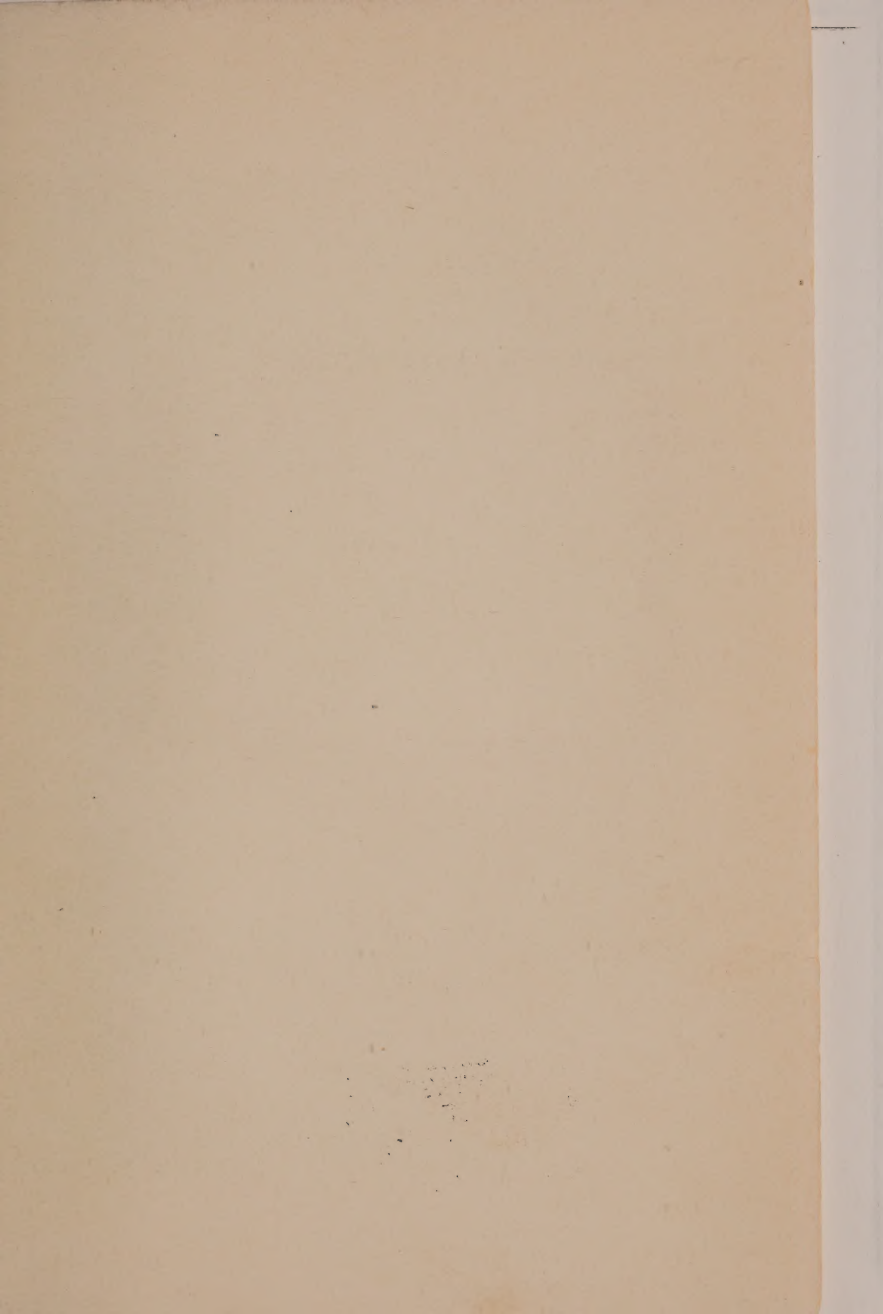


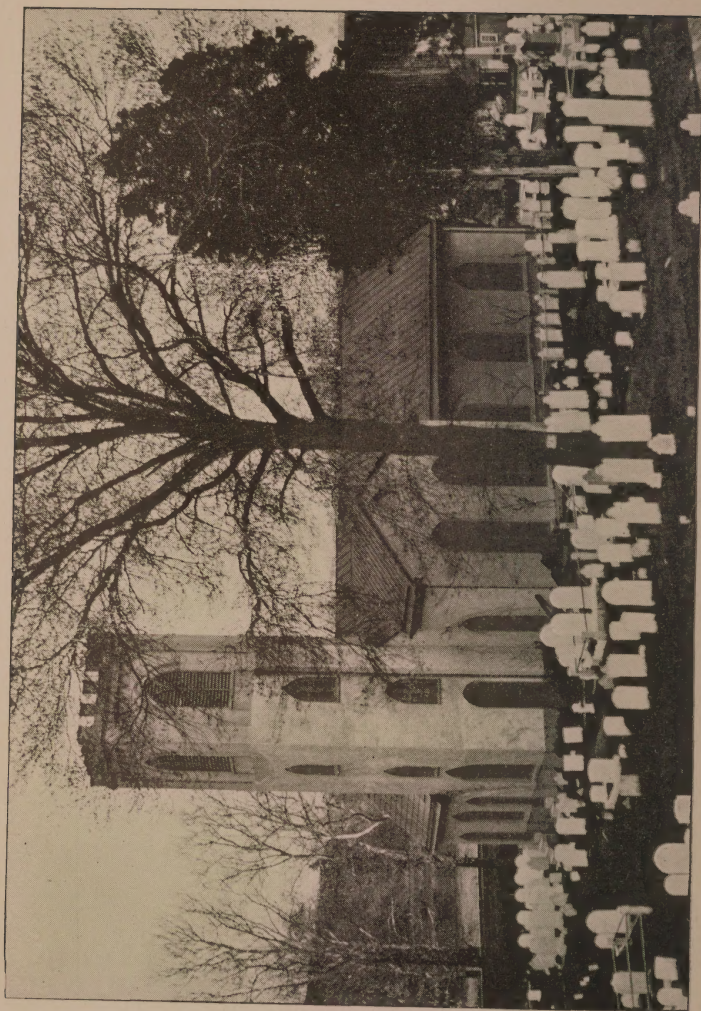


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TO MY DEARLY BELOVED MOTHER  
IN HONOR OF HER FAMILY THIS WORK  
IS AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED

*Dr. Mason family -*

32675



FIAT LUX.

## NOTE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

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Owing to the excessive demand the author has found it necessary to issue a second edition of this small volume. The kindness and success first meted it has inspired the author to greater efforts, with the comforting assurance that the task would ever be to him a labor of love and as such would to a certain degree carry with it its own rewards.

THE AUTHOR.

Wilmington, Del.,

Washington's Birthday, Feb. 22d, 1895.



## PREFACE.

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IN presenting this small volume allow me to say by way of explanation that the chief purpose of the author has been to give a brief outline of the family history. The subject matter is

one of common interest to all members of the illustrious family and one in which I take no ordinary pride. I have of late devoted both time and money at library work



making a historical research of old records, documents, and papers of family, church and state, and have been engaged in collecting and formulating the family evidence and tradition relative to the De Haven loan, with all material and facts attainable thereto. It affords me great pleasure to be able to present this data from my notes for publication, for the mutual benefit of all concerned, I trust. This work is merely intended as a record for the general use of the family and public. If as such it be appreciated, the hope that inspired its preparation will be amply realized. I take this opportunity to thank any who have in the least contributed to make this publication possible. I will ask of you to deal leniently with your criticisms and share with me the candid purpose of the author.

*Howard D. Ross.*

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
Philadelphia, May 1st, 1894.



THE OLD GULF CHURCH.



# HISTORY

## OF THE DE HAVEN FAMILY.



### CHAPTER I.

#### *The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan.*

Suffering of the Revolutionary Army at Valley Forge—  
Washington's Appeal for Aid and Relief—Jacob  
De Haven in 1777 Loans Money to the Continental  
Government—His Patriotism—His Sacrifices—The  
De Havens give Supplies to the Army—De Haven's  
Claim before Congress—Evidences of the Debt—  
Suit against the Government by the Heirs—Its  
Justice—A Debt of Honor—The Blessings of Lib-  
erty.

REVERSE the wheels of time, roll them back for a century or more to the long and dreary winter of 1777-'78, and review the pitiable condition of the Revolutionary army under Washington encamped at Valley Forge, exposed to winter's piercing cold, to drifting snows and chilling blasts. The handful of distressed and famishing troops,

perishing with want, were left almost destitute, suffering almost indescribable hardships and privations from hunger and cold. The state of the army was growing more and more a subject of solicitude to Washington. The soldiers were ill clad, poorly fed and worse paid. They were left without blankets or shoes, without provisions, ammunition or money, with danger, famine, sickness and death staring them in the face. What could be expected of them but mutiny and desertion?

Congress had no supplies, nor money. The country was in a wretched pecuniary condition. The currency was depreciated and public credit was gone. Washington turned to the citizens of Pennsylvania at this alarming crisis. He wrote President Reed of Pennsylvania entreating aid and relief. Said he, "We have never experienced a like extremity at any period of the war. Every idea you can form of our distress will fall far short of the reality. Unless aid comes our affairs must soon become desper-



ate beyond the possibility of recovery. The army must disband or starve. This is a decisive moment; one of the most, I will go further and say *the* most important America has seen. The crisis in every point of view is extraordinary, and extraordinary expedients are necessary. I am decided in this opinion. This is a time to hazard and to take a tone of energy and decision, and by one great exertion put an end to the war. All parties but the disaffected will acquiesce in the necessity and give it their support.”

Great efforts were made to borrow money which was not less efficient at that time than valor and wisdom in the field. Relief came at length by liberal contributions made by a few individuals. Then it was that Jacob De Haven among others, being appealed to for aid, nobly responded by advancing the Continental Government \$450,000<sup>1</sup> through

<sup>1</sup> This was in 1777. The greater part of this sum was advanced in specie (gold), while the balance was turned into cash from securities on his lands. The present amount of the loan, with the accumulation of interest for more than a century, will aggregate over \$4,000,000.

Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, at the head of the government finances at the time. This contribution of De Haven was made in a spirit of broad, generous and self-sacrificing patriotism to cheer the winter gloom and relieve the pressing wants of the poor destitute soldiery, thus bearing testimony to his sincere loyalty and unselfish devotion with patriotic fidelity to the cause of American independence. He came to the service of his country in the hours of the deepest distress and most trying perplexities of the long and painful struggle, espousing and trusting her when fortunes were gloomy, and hopes, but for the intense zeal and beneficent gifts of her patriots, well-nigh crushed. He played a grand and imposing *role* in the great drama of the Revolution, that involved the greatest consequences to the struggling colonies. It is difficult for us who live in the strength and glory of our Republic at the present enjoyment to look back through the long stretch of a century and more and realize with what sacrifice to

private interest, domestic enjoyment, and internal tranquility our forefathers administered relief to the country's needs. None more richly merit the distinguished consideration of posterity in monumenting their fame than these, to whom we are indebted beyond computation.

The DeHavens also contributed further of supplies to the army while at Valley Forge from their lands which were within the shadow of that historic camp, on the west bank of the Schuylkill only 3 miles away. General Washington resorted to the expedient of levying contributions on the surrounding country, and ordered that "all persons residing in the vicinity be required to thresh grain under penalty of its seizure." The necessity of the order was extremely painful to Washington.<sup>1</sup>

The government regularly acknowledged

<sup>1</sup> In the latter part of the summer of 1796 and as his term as President was about to expire, Washington visited these lands in the vicinity of Valley Forge to see how far the desolate fields and the families had recovered from the distress they had experienced.

the loan of Jacob De Haven at the time, and sometime afterward offered to reimburse him in Continental money (script) but that he declined to accept in return for the gold he had advanced because of the enormous depreciation of that currency.<sup>1</sup> De Haven failed in his efforts to secure a settlement during his lifetime because of the depleted condition of the National treasury, the government being unable for many years to meet even the interest on the public debt. Subsequently in the '50's of the present century, De Haven's heirs presented their claim before Congress and the effort for its recovery was in good shape when the Civil War broke out, and the chaotic condition of the government during that period prevented the claimants from effecting a return of the money. Again in the '70's a bill was presented to Congress,<sup>2</sup> but was afterwards with-

<sup>1</sup> The country became flooded with "a Continental currency" irredeemable and of no intrinsic value, and with increased issues it declined and finally dropped entirely out of circulation.

<sup>2</sup> Which was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

*The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan. 15*

drawn by consent to prevent unfavorable action, owing it is supposed to demands upon the treasury from other directions or probably for lack of evidence and proof at hand to warrant its success.<sup>1</sup> Then the matter

<sup>1</sup> It was for a while supposed that record of the loan in the Treasury at Washington had been destroyed when the government buildings were burned by the British in 1812, but it is now claimed certain documentary evidence of the loan is attainable from among the State and Treasury Department records at Washington. This is given as authoritative by the late Hon. Jas. G. Blaine, ex-Secretary of State. It is also claimed that there is recorded a vote of thanks to De Haven from President Reed of Pennsylvania for loans of money. It is not known positively whether De Haven received any loan office or commissary certificates for money or supplies given the government. The debt was never funded nor redeemed and is commonly thought to be part of the unsubscribed government debt.

Tradition and history both authenticate the loan. The family is in possession of a number of old documents and papers relative to the case. There is in the possession of the family a number of old affidavits of persons testifying of having known Jacob De Haven, that he loaned the government money, and that our family is lawful heir to the money. An old affidavit reads, "The fact of his loaning all his means to the government was well known to the neighborhood and his friends at the time." De Haven had papers which were destroyed at his death. It was once claimed that he held govern-



was dropped until the present agitation. Legal proceedings have now been begun in Washington, D. C. by the legal heirs of Jacob De Haven to recover the loan from the government. The descendants have scattered throughout the country, though most of them reside in Eastern Pennsylvania.

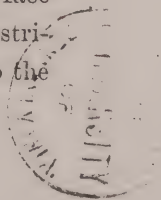
A sacred regard for public justice demands a discharge of this debt, incurred in the public service for the common good. It was part of the price of liberty. The debt could not have had a more sacred origin. As Washington says of the Revolutionary debt, "It is more than a common debt, it is a debt of honor." It is a debt of gratitude. It cannot be disregarded without a breach of faith and violation of contract. The long

ment bonds to show for the money but this is not probable. An old family bible is said to have once contained a receipt from the government for money loaned it by De Haven, sealed to a leaf therein by the red seal of the U. S. Government. This seal and attached receipt are missing, said to have been torn from the leaf and stolen from the family. The torn leaf gives a record of births and deaths in the family, and contains the word "money" written on the margin.

*The Jacob De Haven Revolutionary Loan.* 17

delay of national justice and deferred hope has caused distress to the family. We ask justice, not charity, of a free and prosperous people, as a public blessing for the sake of national honor.

Think of the innumerable blessings we now share in the enjoyment of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness which our forefathers secured to us by the painful struggle and which they bequeathed to posterity as a heritage forever, in peace, plenty and security. Progress and prosperity have borne us rich fruits through the various pursuits of honest industry and enterprise. Time has developed our unequalled resources. Trade, commerce and manufactures have flourished. Through the restoration of hope and confidence the national as well as individual wealth has increased beyond all precedent, until we now behold with the progress of a century, the greatest, the richest and most glorious nation and government on the face of the globe, as the triumphs of an illustrious people and a perpetual monument to the



founders of American independence. May then the liberty and independence won by our forefathers at that ransomed price contribute to our peace, honor and glory, our virtue, wisdom and perpetual happiness, and our common defence and general welfare now and forever; may that government "of the people, by the people and for the people" instituted for the protection to the permanent enjoyment of the blessings of liberty be perpetuated and sacredly maintained under one flag, one country and one people forevermore; and may ample justice be done here,—the choicest flowers both here and hereafter attend—those who, under the Divine auspices, have secured innumerable blessings to us all.

## CHAPTER II.

### *The De Haven Genealogy.*

Jacob De Haven came to America from France with his Brothers—Settled at "Swedeland," Penna., in Colonial Days—His Wealth—His Lands—His Later Years and Death—Samuel, a Revolutionary Soldier, gave Supplies to the Army—His Descendants: John—Edward—Peter, Manufactured Arms for the Colonial Government and State of Pennsylvania—Member of a Committee to Raise Money by Subscription for the Government—The Historic Lands.

Jacob De Haven, of Revolutionary fame, a wealthy Frenchman of noble birth and ancestry, immigrated to America with his three brothers—Samuel, Edward and Peter—in the ante-Revolutionary times. He came from the borders of France—the border provinces between France and Germany—between 1750 and '60. The De Haven family were wealthy from the start in this country, being possessed of immense wealth for those days. The de Havens (the French) made their money in vine culture (vine-

yards) in France and brought it to America.<sup>1</sup>

The De Havens settled with the Swedish settlement, near "Swedeland," then and until 1784 in Philadelphia County, but now in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. They located on one of the "Penn grants"—a tract of land purchased of the Penns—Thomas and Richard Penn, sons of William Penn, then Proprietaries of the Province of Pennsylvania. The products of their plantations were used during the Revolution to supply the Continental army while in this section of the country.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tradition says that the De Havens always had specie in bags about the house. Among other things the De Havens at one time owned vessels running to the West Indies, and it is supposed they made part of their fortune from this trade. When they settled in America they established tanneries at various places for making leather, bringing expert tanners from France to run them.

<sup>2</sup> It is positively known that the De Havens owned much land in Upper and Lower Merion Townships, Montgomery County, in the vicinity of the Gulf, which fact is authenticated by the old wills and deeds of the family. They also held land in Plymouth Township where they had tanneries on their estate. The De Havens at one time held property in the city of Philadelphia.



The De Havens in 1760 donated the land to the old Swedes Church at "Swedeland" upon which it was built, for which the descendants for all time to come were given a family birth right to lots in the burying grounds. All the early De Havens were interred here and in fact they and their descendants include very largely the burials at that place.

The original lands became gradually divided and subdivided among the sons and their sons, in farm-lands, and to-day their descendants still hold the greater portion of the land. -

It is sad to state that, after his services rendered the country, because of his sacrifices the later years of (Jacob) De Haven's life were passed in deep pecuniary embarrassment, and that he died comparatively poor and broken-hearted in the year 1812. His remains are supposed to lie in the old Swedes burying ground, though no tomb nor monument of any kind marks his resting place.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> His later years were spent with his brother Samuel

Samuel, brother of Jacob, bore arms in the struggle as a Revolutionary soldier among those heroes who gave us the heritage of liberty and free government we enjoy.<sup>1</sup>

He also gave money<sup>2</sup> and supplies to the at the Gulf. Because of his trouble his mind weakened in old age. It is generally claimed that he was an old bachelor; others have claimed that he had two sons, one killed at the battle of Germantown and the other died in infancy. It is positively known however that he left no lineal descendants and his estate would therefore be shared among his collateral heirs, *i. e.* his brothers or their heirs.

An old resident gave the following description of old Jacob De Haven in his Colonial costume: six feet tall, stout, with black eyes, prominent nose, long hair and chin whiskers both plaited in cues; wore knee britches, and buckles at knees and on shoes. "O what delight for the children to flock about him!"

<sup>1</sup> Col. Samuel De Haven, a commissioned officer in the Pennsylvania line, whose name is mentioned in the list of Revolutionary officers and soldiers of the associated battalions and militia of Pennsylvania (1775-83) in the "Pennsylvania Archives," 2d series, Vol. 13, "Pennsylvania in the Revolution," Vol. 1, p. 53, as published by the State of Pennsylvania. Again Vol. 1, p. 722 his name is given along with other leading men in the "Philadelphia County Militia," 1st Battalion, 5th Company, 7th Class.

<sup>2</sup> Record of his loan of \$17,000 to the Government is to be found in the government records in the Treasury Department at Washington.



Two Deceivers



army from his lands at the Gulf, in Upper and Lower Merion Townships, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where he lived and died. The De Havens in 1835 donated the land to the Gulf Church and churchyard upon which they now stand. Samuel's estate and plantation were at his death divided equally among the sons, in farm-lands, and have come down through their children to the present holders.<sup>1</sup>

John,<sup>2</sup> eldest son of Samuel, held farm-lands from his father, and also conducted a tannery and store at the Gulf. In his old age he lived with his grandson John, whom he raised.

Jonathan, eldest son of John, at one time owned all Rebel Hill at the Gulf where he lived.

<sup>1</sup> The descendants of Samuel De Haven claim relationship, through intermarriage into the Ball family, with Mary Washington, *nee* Ball, the mother of our illustrious George Washington, "*Pater Patriæ*." This fact is established by court records. See the decree of the Circuit Court of U. S., District of Penna., Apl. 1823, and of Orphans Court for the city and county of Philadelphia, Auditor's Report filed Nov. 1838.

<sup>2</sup> Soldier, 3d Pennsylvania Regiment, U. S., Phila.

John,<sup>1</sup> eldest son of Jonathan, was born at the Gulf, in Upper Merion Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He received property and land there from his grandfather, the "old De Haven homestead," where he lived and died. Here the family was raised. John De Haven received a good education for the days in which he lived—a self education. He attended the old Gulf school and completed his studies at home. He learned the trade of shoemaking, as well as farming, from his grandfather and conducted the former trade at a shop near his house on his land, employing workmen to carry it on for him. He was a good farmer and took pleasure in going among a few

<sup>1</sup> See genealogical table. This John is grandfather to the author of this work who through lineal descent, as shown by marked figures in the table, came into possession of the family records, documents, etc. Among these are also the old family bibles and affidavits giving the family descent from the original ancestors as well as the old deeds granting land at present held from the original ancestors by their will and testament. The family have also in their possession a number of old relics,—an old desk and dressing-case formerly belonging to old Samuel.



friends at harvest and working with them for his own recreation. The people elected him Assessor and Tax Collector for Upper Merion Township, which offices he held with credit for many years.

The next brother of Jacob was Edward who emigrated to Kentucky, where he settled.

The younger brother, Peter De Haven, lived in Philadelphia, and accumulated great wealth by manufacturing arms and supplying ammunition to the government for which he had a special contract, and for which he received large sums on account from the Provincial government of Pennsylvania and the Colonial government.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Mention of payments to "Peter De Haven & Co." by the Pennsylvania Council of Safety at Philadelphia on account of the gun factory are given in the *American Archives*, 5th series, Vol. III, published under authority of Congress, and in the "Journals of Assembly," Vol. 1, of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The former gives mention of orders drawn on the State Treasurer for £2,000, from Nov. 11th to 28th, 1776, and again for £1,500 from January 1776 to August 1778. In the latter is given a statement of the Public Finances for 1776-'79 in which sums aggregating £12,718 were paid him by the

At the beginning of the war Peter De Haven conducted with care and attention the public gun factory and powder mills of the Province of Pennsylvania situated at Philadelphia at Third and Cherry streets, at French Creek in Chester County, at Hummelstown, in Philadelphia County, and at other places during the war.<sup>1</sup> The factory repaired old muskets as well as making new

State Treasurer from Aug. 24th, 1776 to July 6th, 1778. Frequent mentions are also to be found in the "Pennsylvania Archives" and the "Colonial Records," published by the State of Pennsylvania, of De Haven's dealings with the Provincial Council of Safety, the Pennsylvania Board of War, and the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. The "Colonial Records" publish many letters in full between De Haven and the Council and Assembly of Pennsylvania in connection with other original documents regarding supplies of arms, etc., in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

<sup>1</sup> In September 1777 the British under Howe threatened to move on the works at French Creek whereupon the works were with great difficulty moved to Reading. Later in Philadelphia De Haven suffered considerable loss at the hands of the enemy, who stormed the works. In September 1777, De Haven furnished arms for the suppression of a tory rising in Eastern Pennsylvania. The same year the powder mills were blown up by conspiracy.

ones. Public military stores and barracks were kept in close proximity to the factory. In October, 1778, the State asked Congress to take the factory, and in December, 1778, De Haven and his son having conducted it for the three years past offered to purchase it of the state and supply the state with arms, to which Council agreed.<sup>1</sup>

In April, 1779, by order of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, De Haven was appointed agent for forfeited estates in the County of Philadelphia but declined the office. The Council in May, 1779, appointed and commissioned him Health Officer for the Port of Philadelphia. De Haven was at one time one of the assessors of Philadelphia and County. The Council in November, 1780, appointed him a commissioner for the state to purchase hay for the use of the Continental army in winter quarters.

<sup>1</sup> De Haven was ordered by the Council of Safety in May, 1778, "to make public the process of boring and grinding gun barrels, and instruct such persons as they shall require to be taught that art," for communicating which he was given a premium of fifty pounds.

Peter De Haven<sup>1</sup> was appointed a member of a committee, from the North district in Philadelphia, in July 1779, (and endorsed at a town meeting<sup>2</sup>) for the purpose of reliev-

<sup>1</sup> In Walcott's Names of Persons who took the oath of allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia A. D. 1777-78 is found this entry: "November 7, 1778, Peter De Haven of Philadelphia, *Gentlemen*, produces his certificate taken of me 26th of June, 1777." The list contains over a hundred names, but this is the only one with that honorable affix. The original certificate, together with other papers, is in possession of his descendants in Virginia who settled there after the Revolution.

<sup>2</sup> See Scharf and Westcott's "History of Philadelphia," Vol. 1, p. 389. During the Colonial times and long afterwards, until 1830, Philadelphia was the largest and most important town, politically, commercially, and socially on the American soil, the seat of government and the birth-place of freedom where the old liberty bell rang out in prophetic tones, "proclaiming liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." Scharf and Westcott in speaking of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary period say: "Philadelphia had suffered cruelly from the Revolution. Many of her wealthy citizens had been reduced to want. Throughout the struggle she had borne the burden and heat of the day. It was to Philadelphia, her wealth, her patriotism, her resources, that all eyes were turned during the darkest hours of the Revolution and though harrassed by the intrigues on all sides the patriotic men who controlled her affairs throughout the stormy period responded nobly to the demands that were made upon

ing the general distress by raising money by subscription to be solicited from house to house for the service of the United States, the money thus raised to be considered a loan payable in three years and receivable in payment of taxes.<sup>1</sup>

Stand again beside the patriots who now sleep the sleep of the just beneath the sod in the shadow of the old Swedes Church,<sup>2</sup> by the side of the Schuylkill, and from this beautiful valley view the dark shadows of the wooded hills which once echoed the rumble and roar of the cannon; the lonely roads of the Gulf where the dew was

them." Philadelphia was the great depot for supplies for the Continental army and the centre of most important movements and events of the Revolution and for years the pivotal point of the struggle.

<sup>1</sup> The De Havens ranked among our noble Colonial heroes, statesmen, and men of war times in public affairs, being associated on different occasions with Washington, La Fayette, Morris and others.

<sup>2</sup> See frontispiece. The old Swedes Church at Swedeland, the family church of worship in the earlier days, was founded A. D. 1760, and enlarged by addition of the tower, 1837. Washington and Wayne worshipped there during the winter of the Valley Forge encampment.

brushed from the wayside flowers by those demi-gods of the Revolution, Washington, Steuben, La Fayette, Hamilton, Lee, and others as they rode at speed on their way up the valley; these roads and hills made memorable by the treading of the patriotic army *en route* to Valley Forge.<sup>1</sup>

The historic associations of the place dear to every lover of freedom make these changeless hills, consecrated as they have been by the unbroken devotion and terrible suffering of the unyielding army of brave men, a sacred and classic spot, to which loving pilgrims of liberty may always turn and learn anew from their heroic example and immolated lives, the cost of that political and religious liberty we now enjoy.

This historic ground, the seat of our forefathers, is indeed a fiction of river, valley, plain and mountain rarely equalled and no-

<sup>1</sup> It is remembered of old Grandmother De Haven that she saw from her window the barefooted and ragged soldiers pass in weary march in front of her house, all the way in the snow. Washington frequently visited the Gulf during the encampment at Valley Forge, a number of his letters being dated from "Gulf Mills."

where surpassed on the continent. It was the impress of this rare picture upon the mind of the Irish bard, Tom Moore, who, when bidding farewell to it, wrote:

"The stranger is gone—but he will not forget  
When at home he shall talk of the toil he has  
known,  
To tell, with a sigh, what endearments he met,  
As he strayed by the wave of the Schuylkill  
alone."

I cherish the history and tradition of this my birthplace, my fatherland, in these beautiful lines of Sir Walter Scott:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said  
'This is my own, my native land?'"



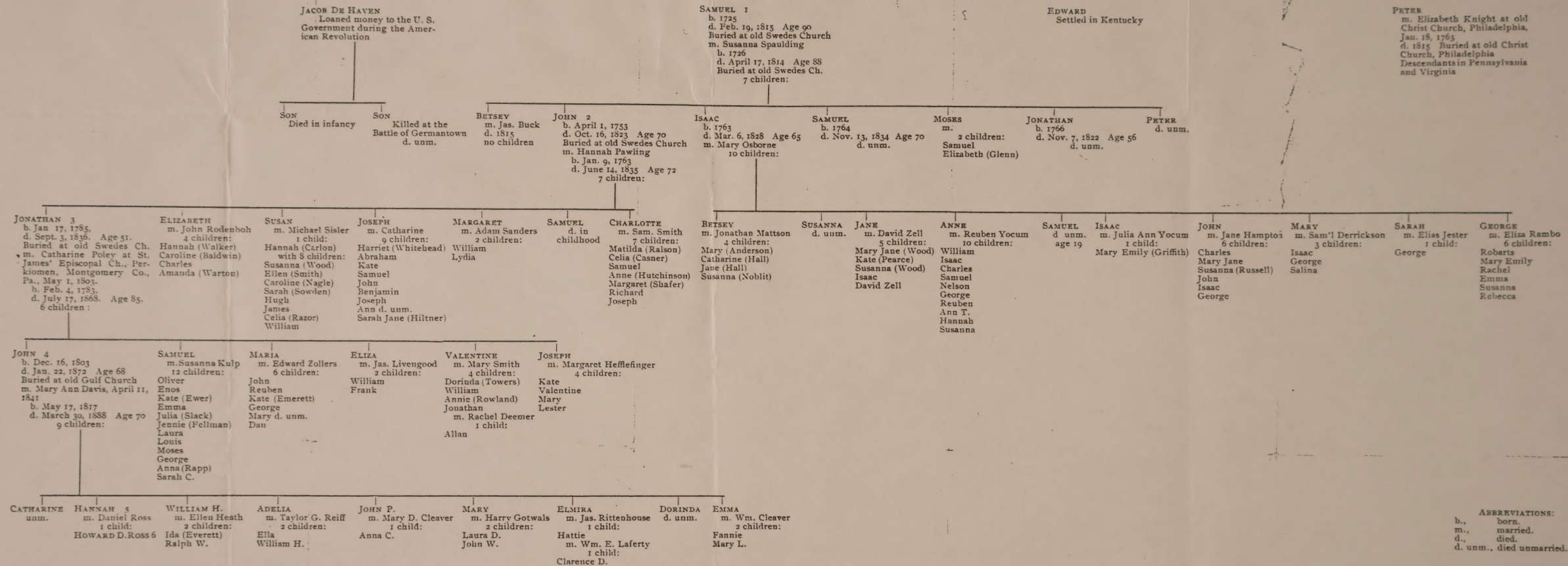








# GENEALOGICAL TABLE.





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